



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

## Outbreak Response/Epidemiology Influenza Weekly Report Arkansas 2019-2020

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Week Ending Saturday 11/30/2019

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During flu season, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) produces a Weekly Influenza Report for clinicians. The report provides information on flu activity in the state. The report also compares influenza-like-illness (ILI) in Arkansas to activity in the U.S. ADH receives reports of only a fraction of flu cases since it only requires reports of hospitalizations, deaths, and outbreaks. Therefore, it is important to understand that the information in the weekly update is representative of the timing and location of activity, but it does not reflect the overall burden of disease. It is presumed that there are many more people actually affected than the report shows. Clinicians and policy makers may find the report helpful in terms of communicating to colleagues and patients about the current status of the flu season.

## Report Key Points:

- For Week 48, Arkansas reported “Local” activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for geographic spread of influenza, and “Moderate” or 7 out of 10 for ILI intensity.
- Since September 29, 2019, 1,881 positive influenza tests have been reported to the ADH online database by health care providers, with over 200 positive tests reported this week. **Please note that reported cases reflect only a portion of the actual numbers of flu cases in the state.**
- Among flu antigen tests this season that can distinguish between influenza A and B virus types, 59 percent were influenza A, and 41 percent were influenza B.
- There were 28 positive PCR flu tests from private labs this week: 13 tested positive for influenza A, 14 tested positive for influenza B and 1 tested positive for both A and B. At the ADH lab, 1 tested positive for influenza B subtype Victoria; no samples tested negative for influenza this week.
- About 3.3 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms this week were there for ILI (Syndromic Surveillance). About 3.9 percent of outpatient visits were for ILI (ILINet sentinel providers).
- The average school absenteeism rate last week was 11.2 percent among public schools. Most major public schools were out last week for the holidays.
- To date, 6 influenza-related deaths have been reported in Arkansas this flu season. CDC has reported a total of 5 pediatric deaths nationwide this season.
- To date, no nursing homes in Arkansas have reported influenza outbreaks.
- Nationally, the proportion of deaths reported to the National Center for Health Statistics attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold this week.
- For Week 47, the geographic spread of influenza was reported as widespread in 10 states and regional in 14 states; Puerto Rico and 19 states reported local activity; the U.S. Virgin Islands and 7 states reported sporadic activity; the District of Columbia and Guam did not report.
- You can report flu year-round and view the weekly influenza report during the influenza season at: <http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/influenza>. You can also access the reporting website directly at: <https://FluReport.ADH.Arkansas.gov>.

## For Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information:

World Health Organization (WHO): [http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs\\_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html).

CDC - Seasonal Influenza (Flu) - Weekly Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

## 2019-2020 Influenza Outbreak Response/Epi Report (Week 48: 11/24/19 – 11/30/19)

### Death Report for Week 48

- Deaths from all causes: 450
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 33
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 1
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 1

### Cumulative Flu Deaths since 09/29/2019

- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 1
- Death Certificate or Antigen only: 5
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 6

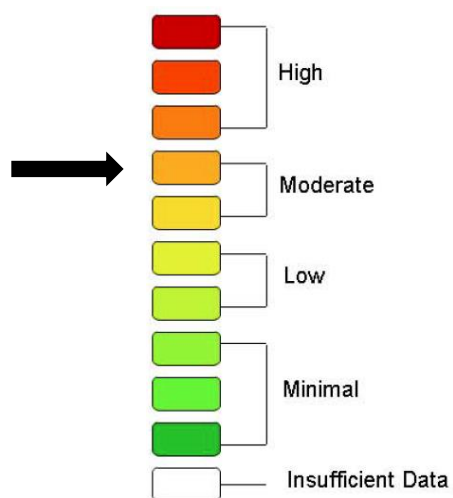
### ER Visits (Syndromic Surveillance)

- **Week Ending: 11/30/2019**  
Weighted Average: 3.3%  
– Total Visits: 20,994  
– Visits with ILI: 701
- **Previous Week**  
Weighted Average: 2.9%  
– Total Visits: 22,698  
– Visits with ILI: 658

### Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions

- **PCR Confirmed:**  
– Cumulative: 22  
– Week ending 11/30/2019: 3
- **Antigen Positive:**  
– Cumulative: 54  
– Week ending 11/30/2019: 6

### Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level Reported by Sentinel Providers



### PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases

- Total Cases since 09/29/2019: 211
- Week ending 11/30/2019: 29

*Reported cases reflect only a portion of the actual numbers of flu cases in the state.*

PCR Tests	ADH Lab Week 48	Other Labs Week 48	Cumulative Cases Since 09/29/2019
A+	0	13	86
B+	0	14	108
Both A and B	0	1	9
B/Victoria	1	0	5
B/ Yamagata	0	0	0
H1N1+	0	0	2
H3+	0	0	1
Unsubtypeable	0	0	0
Total	1	28	211
Negative	0	--	--

### PCR Confirmed Influenza Cases since 09/29/2019

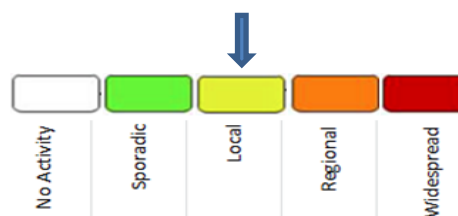
Age Groups	PCR+	Hospitalized	Deaths
0-4 yr.	58	2	0
5-18 yr.	72	2	0
19-24 yr.	11	1	0
25-44 yr.	34	4	0
45-64 yr.	22	5	1
>= 65 yr.	13	8	0
Unknown	1	0	0
Total	211	22	1

### School Absenteeism\*

Week Ending: 11/30/2019  
– Percent Absent: 11.2  
– Previous Week: 6.3

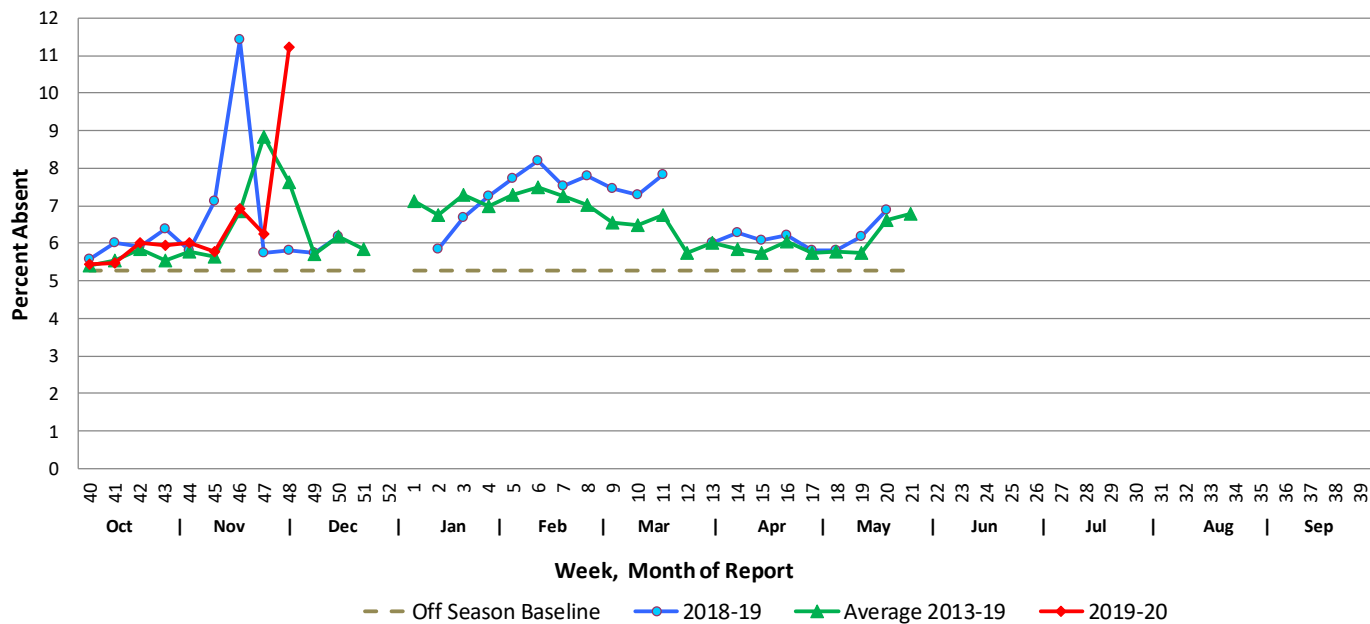
\* Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

### Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 48:

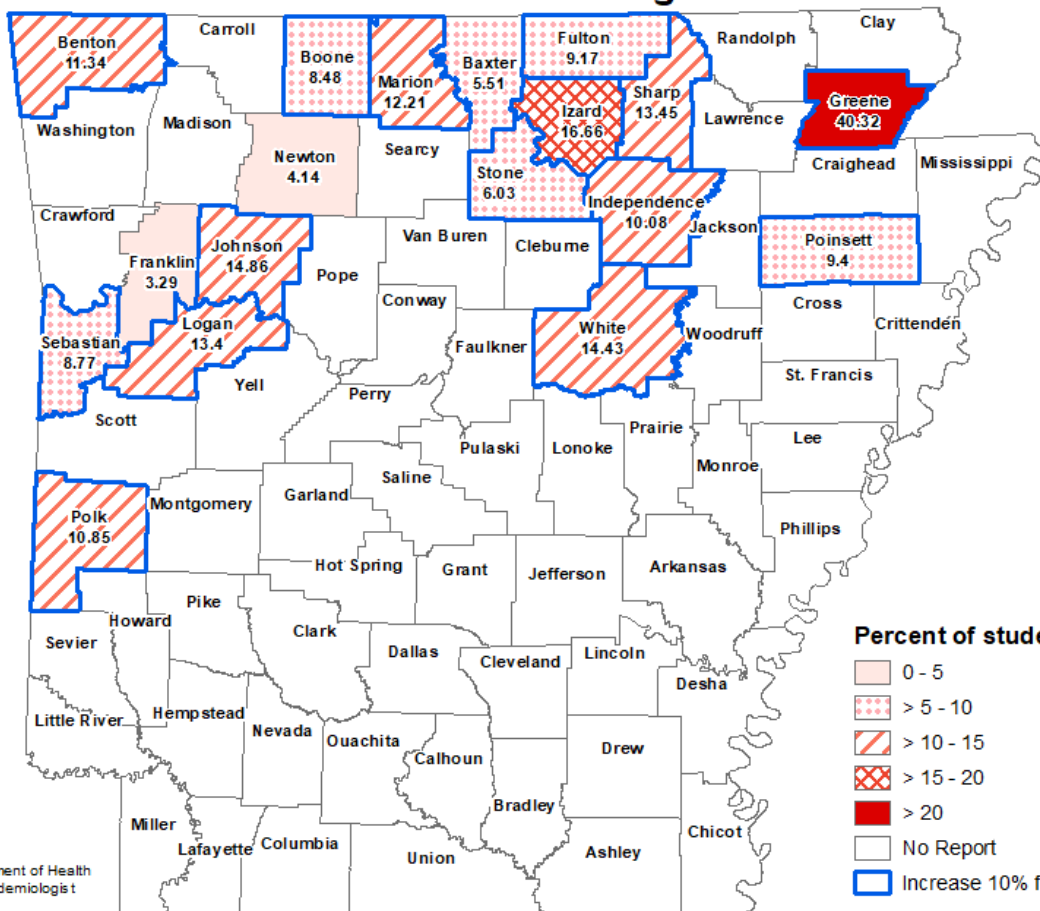


# School Report

## Weekly School Absenteeism Rates, Arkansas Public Schools



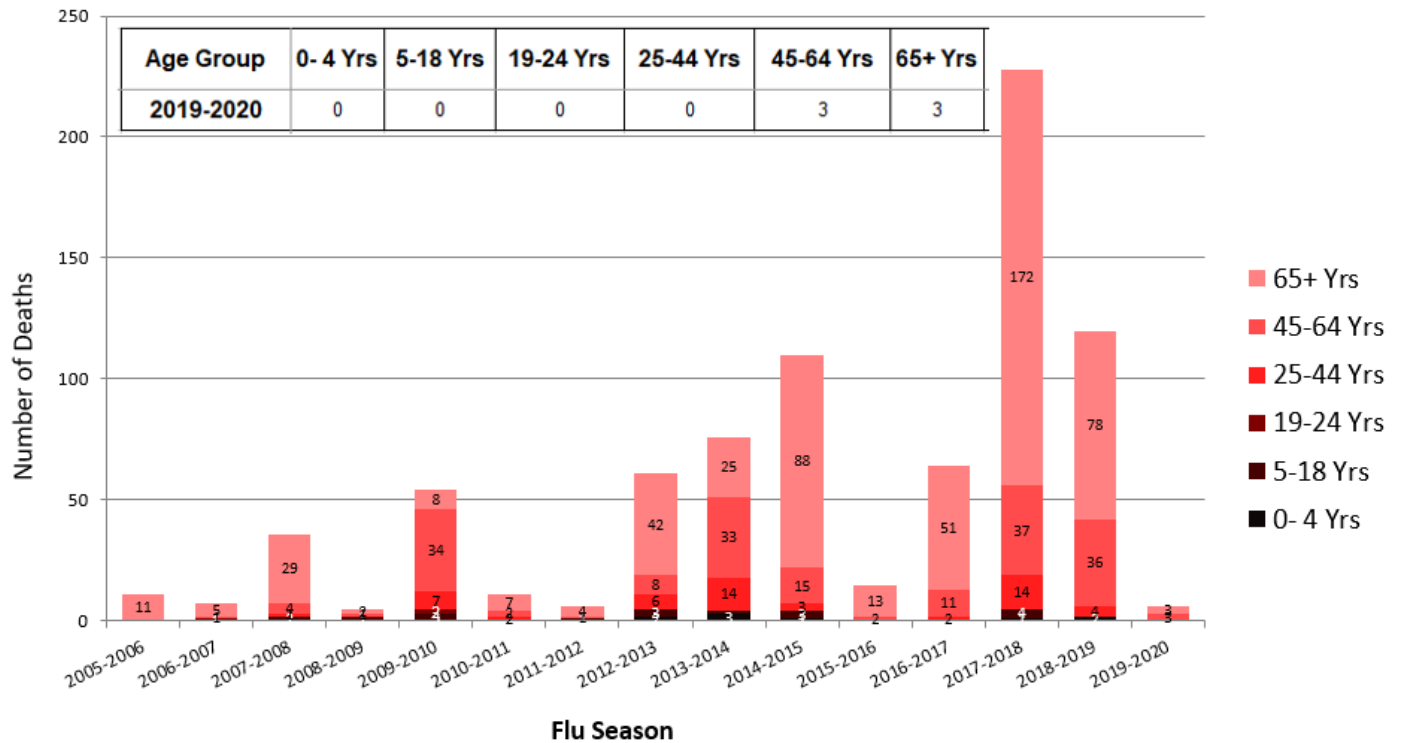
## School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2019-2020 Percent Absent for Week Ending 11/30/2019



Date: December 3, 2019  
Source: Arkansas Department of Health  
Author: Haytham Safi, Epidemiologist

## Influenza Mortality by Age Group, Arkansas 2005-2020 (Provisional)

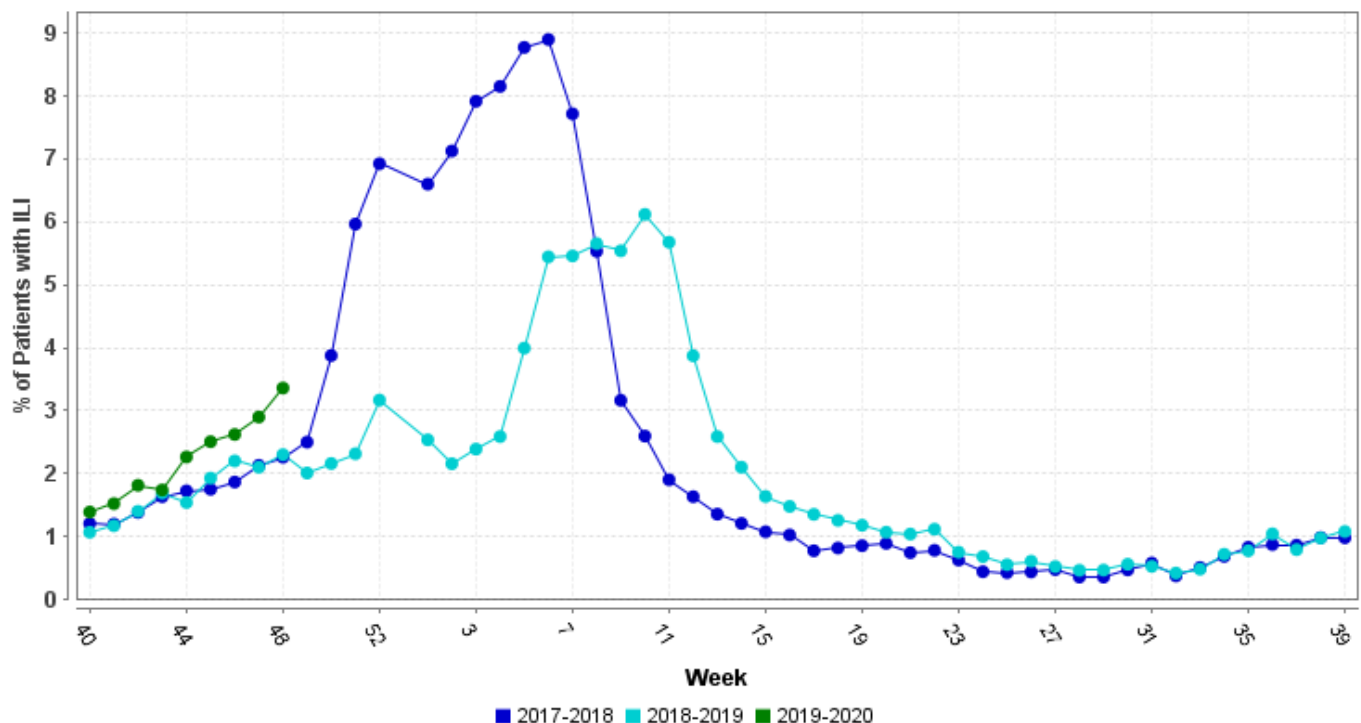
Report Updated: 12/01/2019



\* All seasons range from week 40 to week 39 except 2009-2010 started week 36  
Source: ADH Outbreak Response Section, and Center for Health Statistics

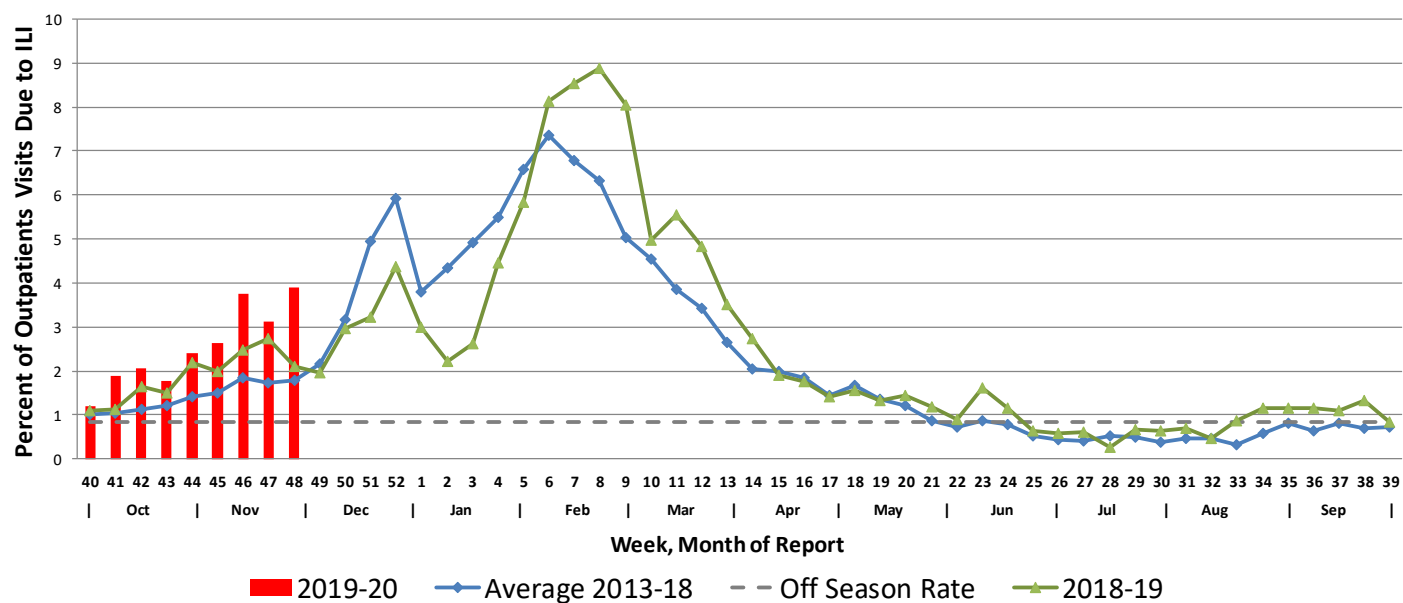
## Hospital Report – Downloaded from ESSENCE (Syndromic Surveillance)

Percent ER Visits with ILI

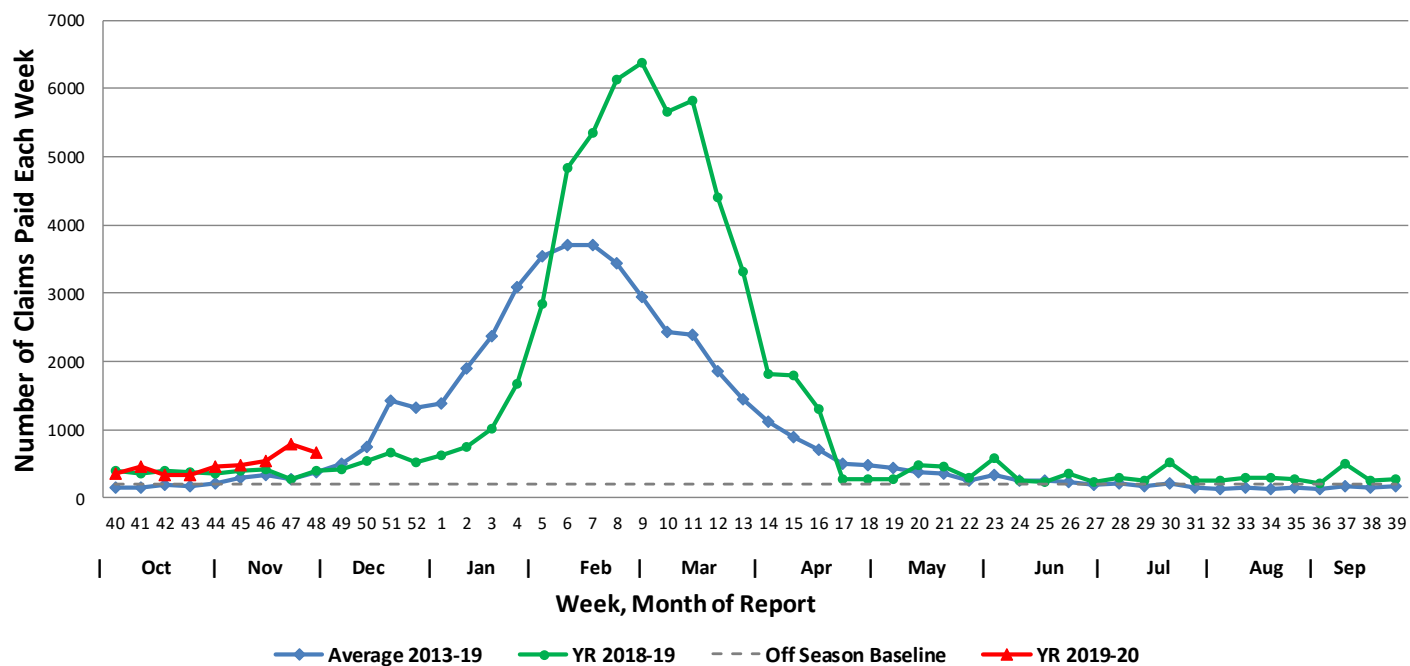


## Arkansas Subset of US Outpatients Influenza Surveillance (ILINET)

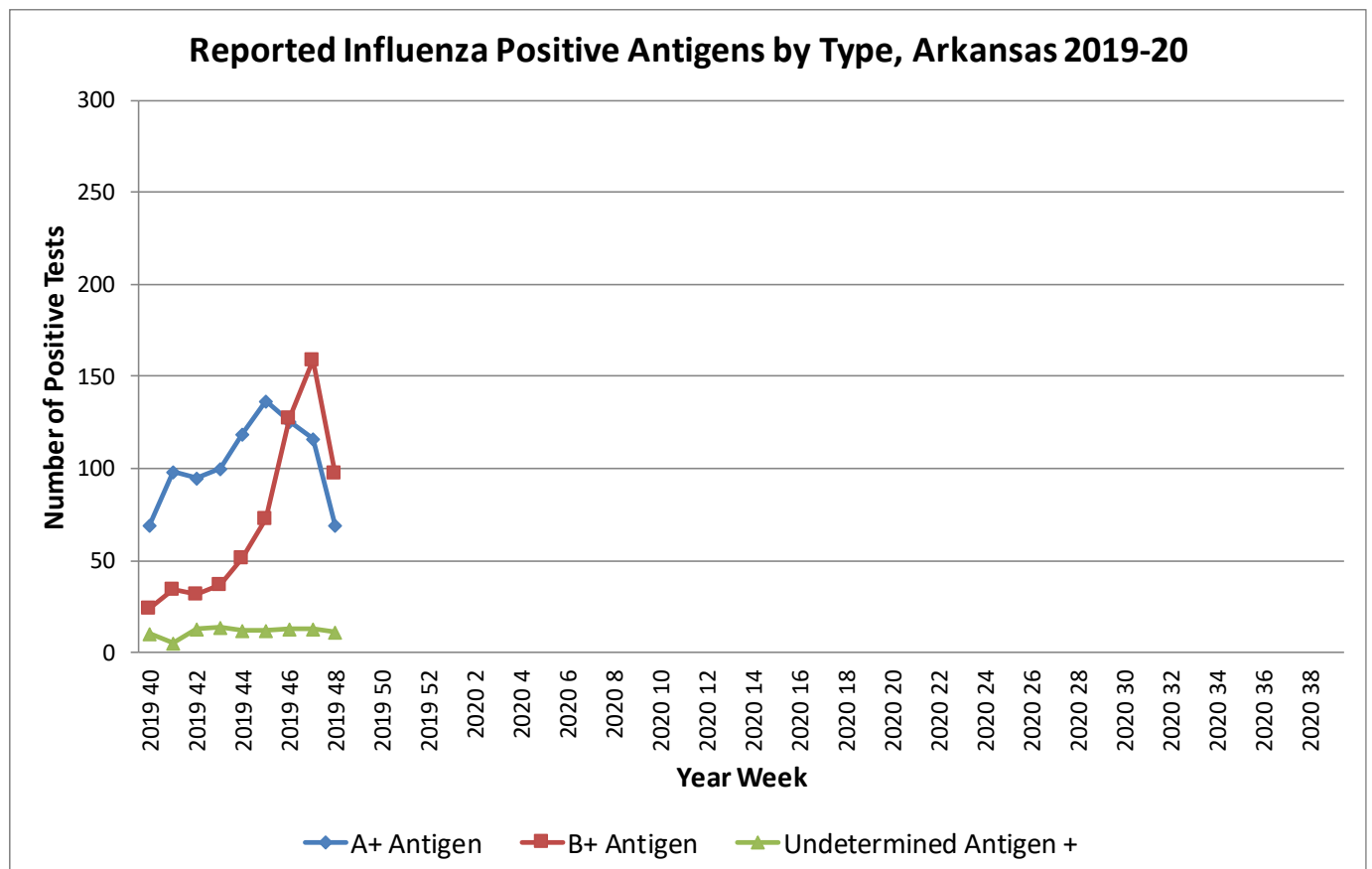
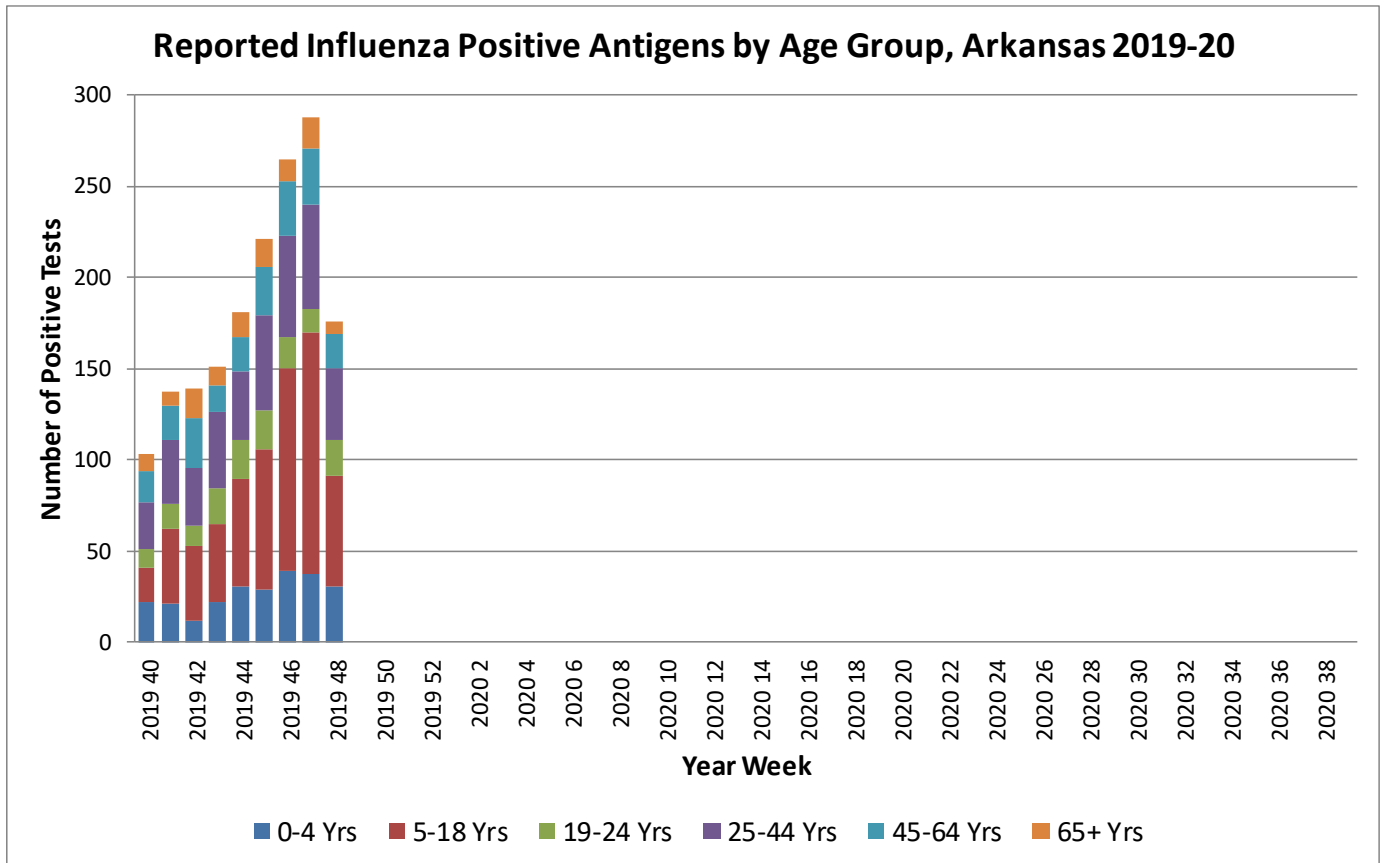
Percentage of Outpatient Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by ILINet in Arkansas



## Weekly Influenza Claims Paid by Medicaid and BCBS of Arkansas



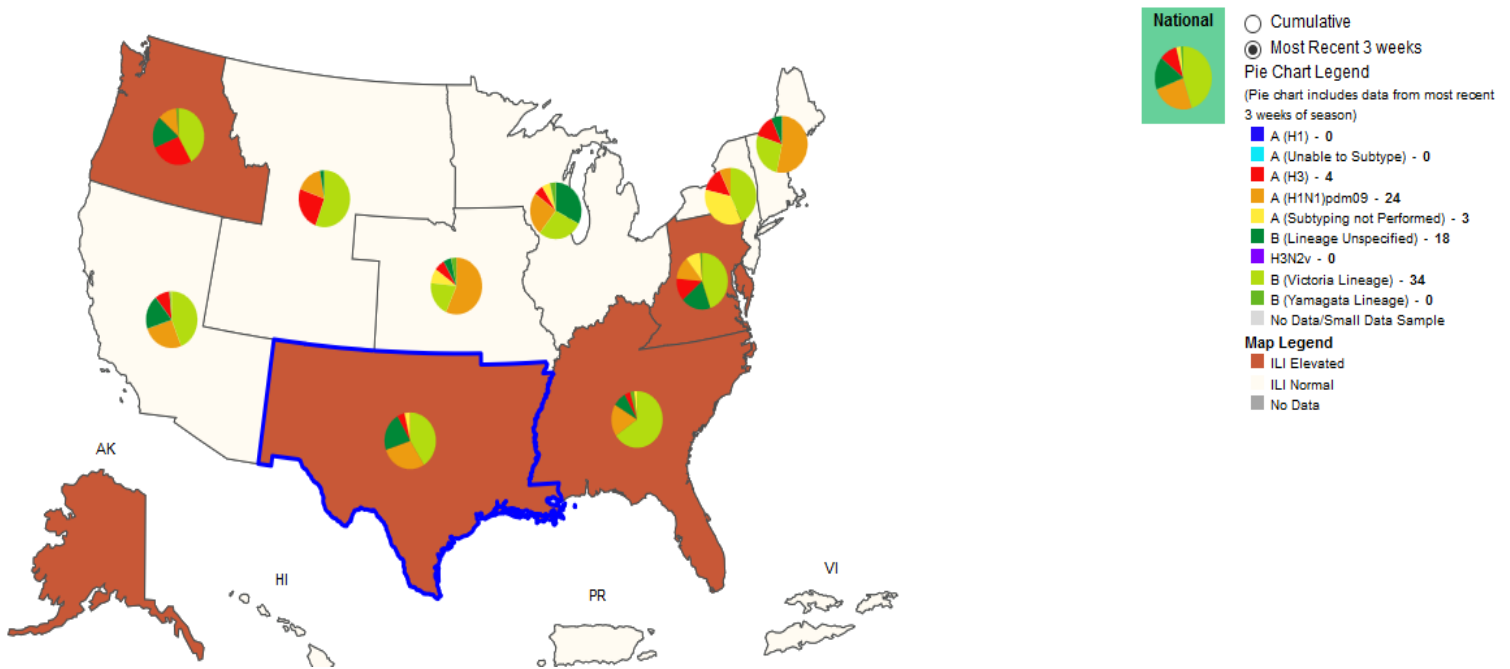
## Antigen Report





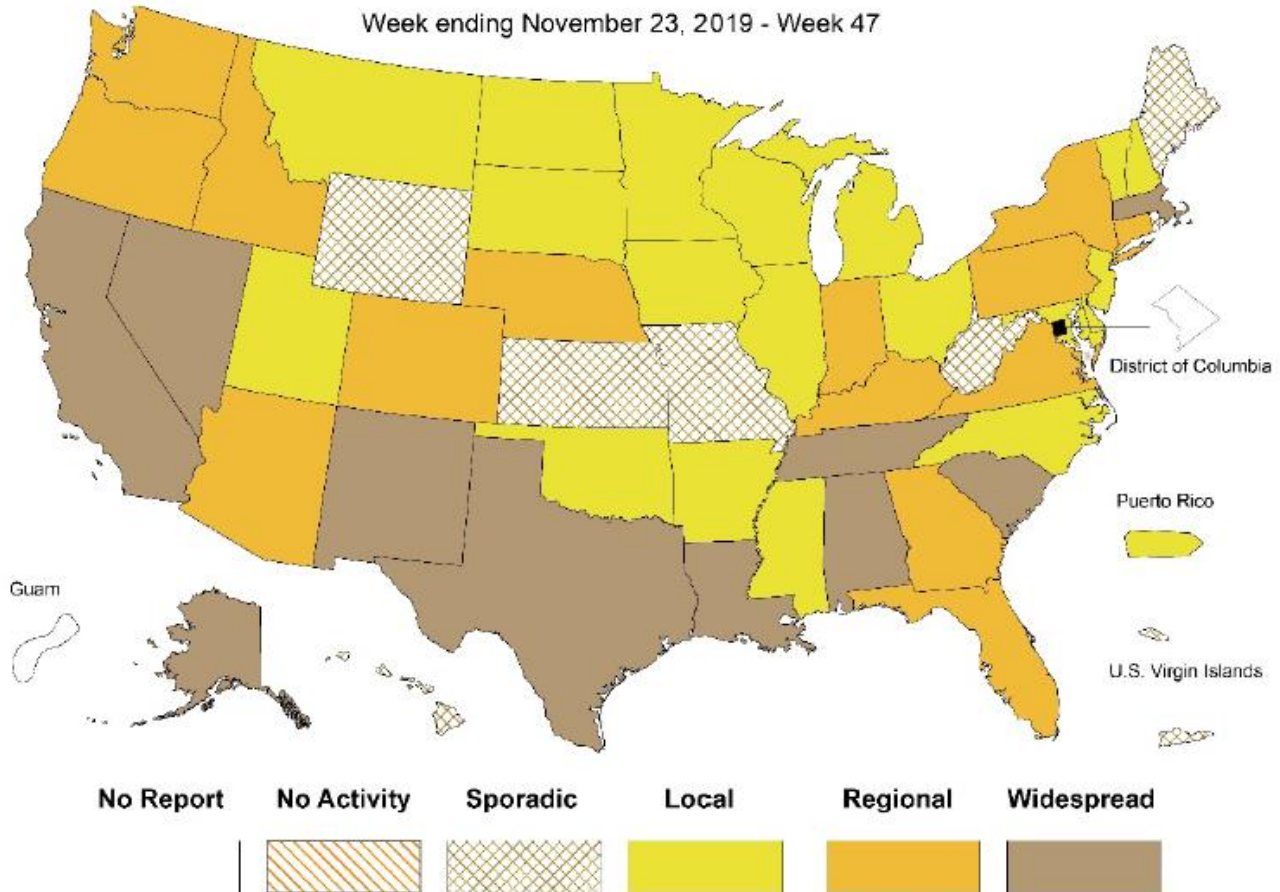
# Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region, 2018-2019 Season, Week Ending November 23, 2019

Values in legend is for the highlighted HHS region (Region 6)



## Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

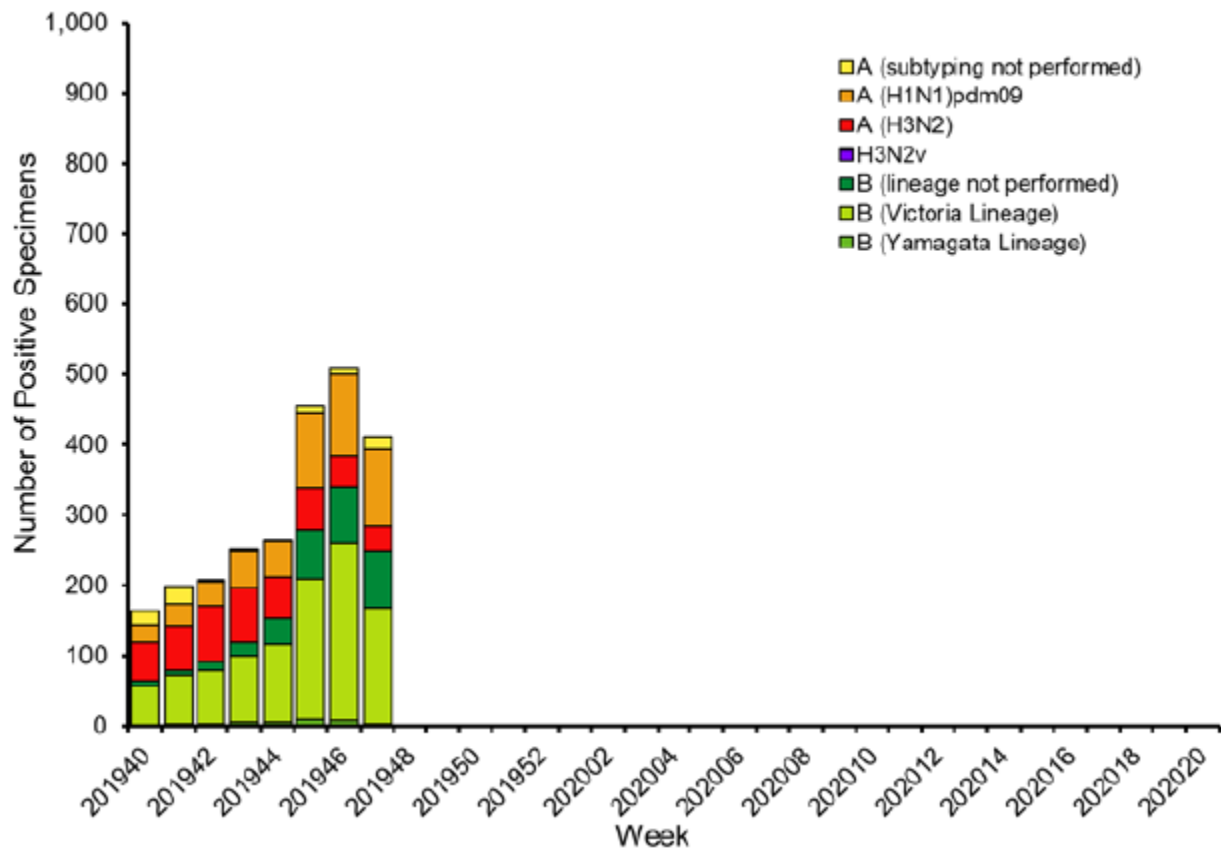
Week ending November 23, 2019 - Week 47



Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week 48: Local



## Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, 2019-2020 Season



## Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality from the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Surveillance System Data through the week ending November 16, 2019, as of November 27, 2019

